

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yuji Fujiwara; Masakazu Nishino; : Art Unit:  
Mitsuhiro Miyashita : Examiner:  
Serial No.: To Be Assigned :  
Filed: Herewith :  
FOR: IMAGE SIGNAL ENCODING :  
DEVICE AND IMAGE SIGNAL ENCODING  
METHOD

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R :

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 4, with the following:

One aspect of the present invention is an image signal encoding device comprising at least encoding means of dividing a luminescence signal and color-difference signals of image signals into macro blocks having a plurality of sub macro blocks and encoding data of the macro blocks with use of any one of a plurality of compression modes of which compression rate is different each other, wherein the total numbers of sub macro blocks in said each macro block are the same for the use of said all kinds of compression modes.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 14, with the following:

Another aspect of the present invention is the image signal encoding device, wherein in said macro block, the ratio between sub macro blocks of said luminescence signal and sub macro blocks of said color-difference signals varies depending on said each compression modes.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 20, with the following: